

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XX

ASHLAND, O., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1898

No. 47

Editorial

Selfishness

How contemptible is an exhibition of selfishness—in others. And with what amusing ease we can turn from the condemnation of a selfish act in another to the defense of one of our own. Such cuteness of argument, such dexterity with the whitewash brush is amazingly funny. Growth in healthy experience will make a man less apologetic toward himself and more lenient toward others; but this kind of growth is a painful climbing up out of the natural man into the spiritual, and there are comparatively few who are capable of constant perseverance therein.

An Evil Guest

A French traveler brought home a large monkey, and was horrified a few days after to find that during the night the beast had killed his only child. But this is not a more frightful tragedy than happens to many who from wide ranging in the dark moral wilderness bring back to the inner home bestial guests for conscious harboring. We have good authority for the statement that not a few people keep a whole menagerie in that sanctuary which was made for God's indwelling alone. What wonder that the cocatrice by and by stings, or that the well grown tiger cub tastes blood, or that the unclean ape smothers innocence. Look well to your guests, lest you entertain a devil, and not "unawares," either.

Do As They Say

Our Savior evidently sought to defend the gospel against the indifferent personal influence of many of its expounders, in all ages, when he told his disciples to obey the teaching of the Scribes, but not to emulate their conduct, for said he: "They say, and do not." That the life of a minister ought to correspond with his preaching goes for the saying, for many reasons, one of which is the fact that his hearers will unconsciously measure his doctrine by his life. But against this tendency the hearer must be warned. What have you after all to do with that man's life, if he preaches to you the gospel? What will it profit you if you reject it, or neglect it, or receive it with indifference or with reservations because he who utters it is not what he ought to be? When I sit in the seat of the hearer, that which is truth I must receive as if it came from the lips of an angel, tho a Judas utter it. The devil shall not draw

me into a false position by means of the unworthy personality of a versatile pulpiteer. There are many such who know the truth and teach it soundly. Do as they say, but do not after their works. One had rather receive his dinner at clean hands, but it would be unprofitable to starve because the case is different.

The Truly Horrible

An old man who sells newspapers on the streets has learned from handling the sensational sheets that in order to dispose of his stock he must always have something "horrible" on hand. It is "All about the horrible suicide;" "all about the horrible murder;" all about the horrible accident," or all about something else that is horrible day after day. One Saturday evening he stood at his accustomed place when the late "extras" were brought around. After securing a bundle he shambled to his corner, saw half a dozen men approaching and cried out: "Here's your extra paper, just out, all about the horrible—horrible—horrible—" Then he stopped. He had forgotten to look at the headlines and find out what horrible thing had happened. Hastily turning over one of his papers, he caught a glimpse of the account of the Harvard—Pennsylvania foot ball game. The troubled look faded from his face; a glad light came into his eyes, and he continued, "All about the horrible foot ball game." The old man was not mistaken. As the accounts of these games appear in the daily papers we can think of no other word that so truly describes them as the word "horrible." The old man had the right idea of classification when he put the foot ball game in the same category with the "horrible accident," the "horrible murder," and the "horrible suicide."

Asking Great Things

It is the privilege of every child of God to ask for great things. The best things of God's love, the richest gifts of heaven, are offered to each one of us and may be had for the asking. Why then should there be such poverty of soul, if it be true that the richest and choicest blessings of the Father can be had for the mere asking? Is it because we do not ask? Certainly not, but the "asking" that is not in vain implies two things: (1) A faith as large as the blessing we ask for. "According to your faith be it unto you." No one has a right to pray to the Father for a blessing larger than his faith. The larger blessing and the larger faith go hand in hand.

Let us remember this when we take our petitions to the Lord. (2) It also implies a proper use of the gifts God has already given us. The wise parent will not give to the child anything beyond what he uses judiciously. The prodigal asked for great things and the injudicious father granted the request, but it was to his own hurt. Our heavenly Father is too wise to make such a blunder. He knows our ability to receive and to use and he dispenses gifts and blessings to his children according to the faith they possess and the ability to use wisely what he gives. If we have asked for the larger things and have not received, let us remember that the kind heavenly Father does not dispense love's richest and choicest blessings promiscuously. Let us first of all ask for the larger faith and prove ourselves worthy by a proper use of what God has already given us.

Loving Devotion

No one can read the story of the women's early visit to the tomb of Jesus on the most eventful morning the world has ever seen without being impressed with the beautiful and loyal devotion of these friends of Jesus. Last at the cross and first at the tomb their devotion to Jesus continues to this day. Almost two thirds of Christ's real friends today are women. What a noble part they perform in all the Christian work of the world. They train the children and breathe into their souls the spirit of love for Christ. In the Sabbath School, in Sisters' Societies, everywhere their work, words and influence are doing much to save and mould the lives of the young people for noble character and usefulness. Among the most devoted and loving friends of Jesus and of Paul were women, and both make honorable mention of them and of their services.

Defeating Death

Those who "die daily" have no reason to fear that ultimate ordeal of nature which come to us all. The dread end terror of death lies not so much in its antithesis to the natural life as in the deeper and more significant antitheses it presents to the unsaved spiritual life. It is the inexorable judgment of sin. It is the dreadful summons to the soul to appear before God, that eternal and uncompromising Antithesis of unholiness. In this fact is the terror of death to the ungodly. The uttermost of all transgression and all uncleanness must come into the light, and more terrible still, must come